

WASHINGTON, SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1908.

FIGHTS FOR CHILD
AGAINST HUSBANDLonely Mother Implores
Courts to Restore Lit-
tle Girl.

"As I walked home that dreary night and thought of my little one pining away and unable to see me, I felt resolved to endure publicity and sue my husband. My resolution came like a sudden shock, but I have never regretted it."

That is how Mrs. May M. Leavy accounts for her decision to fight for the possession of her twelve-year-old child. "His ungovernable temper and his violent actions toward me I bore for fourteen years," said she. "My life was a torment, but I sought to have peace. Now, however, it is not for myself alone but for my child that I am fighting. I shall not give up."

Went to Virginia.

Mrs. Leavy is now living at 806½ I street northwest, ekking out an existence by taking in sewing, and spending every moment she can get from her work in her efforts to secure possession of the child.

"The little girl loves me," she declared; "she loves me dearly. She was taken away from me because my husband feared her testimony, should I bring suit for alimony."

The child is now at Madison, Va. She has been there for two months, and, during that time, has not been able to see or write to her mother. One little note, written in snatches and surreptitiously hurried off in a letter written to Mrs. Leavy by a friend, has reached this city. It is a sad little epistle, filled with love and the hope that her mother will come and see her.

The Child's Letter.

The letter follows:

"I am well and hope you are the same my dear mama. I have been trying to get a letter to you every day but it seems that I have failed in all my plans to get a letter to you so I thought I would try this way to send a letter in Mrs. Taylor's letter to you. And dear mama please do not worry dear mama if I am so far away from you. My love is just as strong for you dear mama. Everything will be alright some time so don't worry dear mama. Write me a letter in Mrs. Taylor's letter. Dear mama please excuse this paper for it was the best I could get. Well I will close for this time. Love to my darling sweet mama from your baby."

"FLORENCE."

With tears in her eyes, Mrs. Leavy tells of her one visit to Virginia to see her child.

"It was a long trip to Madison," said she, "and I was tired when I arrived at Culpeper. Arriving there, I discovered Madison was a distance of fifteen miles from the railroad station. That distance I was forced to walk. I arrived at the house in which Florence lived by nightfall, and waited there for three-quarters of an hour to see her."

"All of my pleadings were futile. I could gain nothing from the persons in charge, and finally I was forced to come back to Washington, my whole trip gone through for naught."

Aside for his temper, Mrs. Leavy makes no allegations against her husband. She says that on several occasions he rushed at her as if to kill her. Her little daughter, she asserts, was and is well aware of her husband's disposition.

Think She Will Win.

Attorneys Darr, Peyser & Taylor are preparing elaborately for the legal battle before them. Mr. Darr feels confident that Mrs. Leavy will gain possession of the child. Mrs. Leavy declares that when her child was taken from her the last word spoken was:

"Remember, mama, get me back soon."

Mrs. Leavy is employed in the Post-office Department, and is considered a competent and efficient workman. His relations with his fellow-employees have been pleasant. Mrs. Leavy asserts that the storms of passion possessing her husband were entirely confined to his fireside.

"Sometimes," said she, "he would behave for a week. Then he would lose his temper and fly about the house until I trembled for myself and the child." The couple were married in 1894, and lived together until 1907. Mr. Leavy, according to his wife, is fifty-six years old. She is considerably younger.

WAGON STRIKES CHILD.

Elizabeth Jaquette, the two-and-a-half-year-old child of Charles A. Jaquette, a clerk in the Treasury Department, living at 1550 Fairmont street, was accidentally knocked down by a wagon at Fourteenth and U streets northwest, yesterday afternoon. The child was not seriously hurt.

CHILD PINES FOR MOTHER



FLORENCE LEAVY,

Who Is the Object of Parents' Legal Battle.

"SERPENT CURE"
THIEF'S TRICKAged Gypsy Gets Money From
Doctor in a Novel
Manner.

PARIS, May 23.—A doctor living in the Place Perrier was victimized in a daring and novel manner. An old gypsy woman coiled on him and asked him to visit her daughter, who was lying seriously ill in a caravan on the fortifications nearby.

"I have tried the serpent cure," she said, "but there was no result. If you will allow me to pay your fee in advance, I shall be sure you will come."

The doctor consented, and the old woman handed him a 500-franc note. As the doctor was getting the change out of his safe, she again mentioned the "serpent cure," and he asked her what it was.

"This," she said, and taking a box from under her rags, she turned half a dozen snakes out on the floor.

The doctor was startled, and rushed out of the room. When he returned with a stick he found that the woman and the snakes had vanished, while all the money in his safe also had gone. He still held the 500 francs, but this proved to be counterfeit.

MRS. MAY M. LEAVY,
Who Is Suing Husband for Possession
of Their Child.W. TOLSON WINS
WARNER CONTESTSandy Spring Debater Gets Prize
in Field of Ten Con-
testants.

ROCKVILLE, Md., May 23.—In the Warner medal contest among declaimers of the county schools, which came off here today, there were ten contestants, namely: Eugene Jarboe, Sugarland; Harry Beall, Rockville; Medford R. Canby, Coleville; Millard Rice, Darnestown; George Rohrich, Bethesda; Walter Tolson, Sandy Springs; Otto Trundle, Gaithersburg; Burch Brewer, Monocacy; Ellen C. Beall, Damascus, and Hallock Frye, Kensington.

Walter Tolson won the first prize, a \$20 gold piece; Harry Beall, second, a \$10 gold piece; Hallock Frye, third, a \$5 gold piece. John H. Gascway, C. Norman Boule, and Edwin W. Broome were the judges. Remarks were made by the Hon. Charles H. Treat, United States Treasurer; Col. John G. Capers, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and B. H. Warner, donor of the prizes. The contest was witnessed by a large audience.

INVESTIGATE JAIL,
ORDER OF SENATECommission Will Be Ap-
pointed by President to
Make Inquiry.

The news yesterday that the District bill carried a provision for the appointment of a commission to investigate conditions in the District jail and workhouse, and to visit other correctional institutions for the purpose of making a report and recommendations relative to bettering local conditions, was pleasing to Thomas H. McKee, the newly appointed warden of the jail, who will assume his duties on June 1.

Since receiving his appointment Mr. McKee has been very busy seeking out the needs of the jail that he may cooperate in remedying the evils which are said to exist there. He has decided views upon what reforms should be instituted, but is unwilling to be quoted on the subject until after he assumes the office to which he has been appointed.

New Warden Realizes Conditions.

Mr. McKee fully realizes the conditions of the jail, and the medieval penal and correctional methods in vogue in the District. He says that he will lose no time in doing all in his power to correct these conditions, and his standing and influence with Members and Senators is regarded as assuring favorable action on any recommendations he makes to Congress.

In conference, the item appropriating \$10,000 to construct a new north wing for the workhouse for males was finally eliminated and the following provision as a substitute was agreed to:

Commission to File Report.

"The President is authorized to appoint three commissioners, one of whom may be nominated by the Attorney General and one by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, who shall investigate the condition of the jail of the District of Columbia, now under the control of the Attorney General, and of the workhouse within said District and other buildings adjacent to said jail; and in connection with the investigation the commissioners, under the direction of the Attorney General, may visit and inspect similar institutions in other cities within the United States."

They shall report to the President on or before December 31, 1908, concerning said condition and the expediency of removing said jail, workhouse, and other buildings to other sites more appropriate for their needs and located so near to railroad lines as to secure suitable facilities for the delivery thereof of material suitable or necessary for industries to be therein carried on.

"They shall also make such other recommendations on the subject as may seem to them expedient; for the expenses of the commission there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$15,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary."

ENTERS BANKRUPTCY PLEA.
Massif E. Hagger, who describes himself as a merchant now out of employment, living at 122 I street northeast, has filed in the Supreme Court of the District a voluntary petition in bankruptcy, in which he sets forth his debts as \$21,302.54 and his assets as \$3,650.

Investment and
Speculation Business
Property
Only \$13,750

F St., near 7th St.—on line of immense traffic soon to result from New Union Station—

4-story brick building, now rented at \$80.00 per month. Lot 19x120 to alley.

DWIGHT ANDERSON
526 13th St.

NOTED AERONAUTS
ENTERED IN RACESThirty Balloons Will Start in
Great International Events
at London.

LONDON, May 23.—One week from today the greatest international balloon race the world has ever seen will take place here for valuable prizes donated by Sir Thomas Lipton and Sir Thomas Dewar, of whisky fame.

More than thirty balloons will start, most of the foreign ones being German. Among the well-known aeronauts who will participate in the race are M. Galliet, Prince Roland Bonaparte, Prof. Busby, M. Fernand Jacobs, Comte Henry de la Vaulx.

During the week of the race there will be meetings in London of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale and a visit to the war office balloon factory at Farnborough. On June 24 members of the Aero Club will compete in the "hare and hounds" race for a cup presented by the Hon. C. S. Rolle. Competitors in this balloons will go to the one who lands nearest to the fugitive.

The Hedges-Cutler Challenge Cup for the longest journey in any balloon or airship in Great Britain will be competed for on July 11 and on July 18 there will be a "stability" race for a cup presented by the Hon. Ascheton Harbord. The prize will be awarded to the competitor who maintains his balloon at the most even altitude for a given period of time. A sealed barograph to record the altitudes automatically will be issued to each competitor.

Throughout the year there will be ascents almost every day at Hurlingham, which is now the headquarters of the Aero Club. To cope with the exceptional requirements of the season a new twelve-inch main capable of delivering gas at the rate of 100,000 cubic feet per hour has been laid down.

NOTED PLAYWRIGHT
IS DEAD IN PARIS

PARIS, May 23.—Francis Coppée, poet and dramatist, died here today. He was sixty-six years old. He was a member of the French Academy, having been elected in 1884. By that institution he was awarded the Prix Lambert, in recognition of the play, "Le Passant," which he wrote at the suggestion of Madame Agar, for Sarah Bernhardt.

He was made a member of the Legion of Honor in 1895. Two of his plays, "The Jacobites" and "For the Crown," were produced in New York successfully.

PUBLIC PRINTER COMING.

The Manchuria, on which Public Printer John S. Leach sailed from Manila on April 25, is due to arrive in San Francisco, Cal., on Friday. It was stated at the Bureau of Insular Affairs of the War Department last night that Leach was expected to arrive in Washington between June 5 and 10.

Offer Wanted

TO CLOSE ESTATE.

10 Houses in Georgetown.

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